



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645

512-804-4000 telephone • 512-804-4001 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

December 12, 2011

Texas Reports a Fourth Year Decrease in the Number of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Off Work in 2010

Private industry employers in Texas reported a 5.8 percent decrease in nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work during 2010 for a total of 56,720.

Table A. Nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work, private industry, Texas 2008-2010

	2008	2009	2010
Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work	64,700	60,240	56,720
Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work per 10,000 full-time employees	84.6	81.2	79.5
Median days away from work	8	8	9

The annual Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses revealed that there were 79.5 injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time equivalent employees in Texas. This rate was 2.1 percent lower than the rate of 81.2 in 2009 and is below the national rate of 118.

The median days away from work, a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses, for Texas increased to 9 in 2010 from 8 in 2008 and 2009. This is higher than the 8 median days away from work reported nationally.

The survey is conducted in cooperation with the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC). The TDI-DWC collects survey data in order to assist employers, safety professionals, and policymakers in identifying occupational safety and health issues in the state.

The TDI-DWC also provides various safety and health services to promote safe and healthy workplaces, including free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations; regional and on-site safety training; free safety and health publications; free safety training audio-visual loans; guidance on return-to-work programs and drug-free workplace programs; and the Safety Violations Hotline. For more information on these services, visit the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/index.html>, or call 1- 800-687-7080.

Several TDI-DWC communications have been released in 2011 reporting on 2010 data from the BLS workplace safety and health statistical series. The first a news release, in September 2011 covered work-related fatalities from the 2010 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. In November 2011, BLS reported that there were 189,841 nonfatal injuries and illnesses in Texas, in 2010. The data are based on the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses with a sample of approximately 10,000 Texas employers. In December 2011, the third news release, reporting 56,720 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work. This companion report to the December 2011 news release covers the circumstances of those injuries and illnesses as well as the characteristics of the employees involved in the cases that required days away from work.

Industry

Table B. Top three industries, within the major industry sectors, reporting the highest number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work, private industry, Texas 2010

Industry	NAICS code	Total cases	Incidence rate	Median days
Private industry	-	56,720	79.5	9
Goods producing	-	13,150	80.5	10
Specialty trade contractors	238	3,660	113.1	12
Food manufacturing	311	1,050	116.0	10
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	332	890	75.9	13
Service providing	-	43,570	79.2	8
Food service and drinking places	722	3,230	59.7	7
Hospitals	622	3,160	132.1	5
Truck transportation	484	2,920	243.9	26

In 2010, the service providing industries reported 30,420 more nonfatal injuries and illnesses than the goods producing industries. However, the median days away from work were higher within the goods producing industries at 10. Among the listed industries, specialty trade contractors reported 3,660, the highest number of total cases with 35 percent of their cases affecting the ages of 45 to 54 and 36 percent of their cases involving more than 31 days away from work. Truck transportation had the highest incidence rate at 243.9 and accounted for the highest median days at 26; 44.5 percent of their cases required 31 or more days away from work.

Demographics

Table C. Number of nonfatal cases involving days away from work by age of employee and major industry sector, private industry, Texas 2010

Age	Private industry	Goods producing	Service providing	Median days
16 to 19	1,610	160	1,450	7
20 to 24	4,800	980	3,820	5
25 to 34	12,110	3,240	8,870	7
35 to 44	13,850	3,340	10,510	10
45 to 54	15,300	3,610	11,700	11
55 to 64	7,450	1,590	5,850	14
65 and over	1,580	210	1,370	15

Employees ages 45 to 54 reported 15,300 cases accounting for 27 percent of the total number of cases involving days away from work. For the fourth consecutive year ages 65 and over have reported the highest median days away from work at 15.

Length of Service

Table D. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illness involving days away from work by length of service and industry sector, private industry, Texas 2010

Length of service with employer	Private industry	Goods producing	Service providing
Less than three months	6,740	2,150	4,590
3 months to 11 months	11,180	2,710	8,470
1 year to 5 years	21,430	4,480	16,950
More than 5 years	17,160	3,810	13,340

Employees with 1 to 5 years of service reported 21,430 cases and accounted for 38 percent of the 56,720 total private industry cases requiring days away from work. Employees having more than 5 years of

service reported the second highest number of cases with 17,160, accounting for 30 percent of the total days away from work cases.

Occupations

Table E. Ten occupations with the most injuries and illnesses with days away from work, private industry, Texas 2010

Occupation	Number of inj/ill	Median days
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	3,600	22
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	3,390	9
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	2,190	5
Retail salespersons	1,960	11
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	1,740	22
Maintenance and repair workers, general	1,610	8
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	1,230	12
Construction laborers	1,170	27
Registered nurses	1,000	4
Stock clerks and order fillers	990	11

A review of the ten occupations with the most injuries and illnesses revealed that truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer reported the highest number of cases involving days away from work with 3,600. Construction laborers reported the highest median days at 27. The median days away from work doubled from last year for construction laborers from 13 to 27 and for truck drivers, light or delivery services from 11 to 22.

Case Characteristics

Table F. Incidence rates for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work, private industry, Texas 2010

Characteristic	2008	2009	2010
Nature of injury, illness			
Sprains, strains	32.9	31.9	33.6
Bruises, contusions	9.0	9.7	7.6
Cuts, lacerations	8.8	7.2	6.0
Punctures	1.0	0.5	0.6
Fractures	9.1	7.3	7.8
Heat burns	1.0	1.0	0.9
Carpal tunnel syndrome	0.4	0.3	0.3
Tendonitis	0.2	0.1	0.1
Chemical burns	0.4	0.8	0.7
Amputations	0.8	0.4	0.5
Multiple traumatic injuries	2.6	1.9	2.2
Characteristic	2008	2009	2010
Part of body affected			
Head	6.4	6.0	5.5
Eye	1.8	2.2	2.1
Neck	0.9	1.0	1.1
Trunk	27.4	25.9	25.4
Shoulder	5.3	5.3	6.2
Back	16.6	16.2	14.4
Upper extremities	19.6	16.8	17.4
Arm	4.0	3.7	4.3

Wrist	2.7	2.9	2.9
Hand, except finger	3.7	3.4	3.0
Finger	8.0	5.9	6.3
Lower extremities	20.6	18.8	20.2
Knee	8.0	6.7	8.1
Ankle	4.6	4.2	4.5
Foot, toe	4.5	4.0	3.8
Body Systems	1.5	2.8	1.2
Multiple parts	8.1	9.9	8.8
Characteristic	2008	2009	2010
Source of injury, illness			
Chemicals, chemical products	1.1	2.6	1.1
Containers	10.5	9.8	10.3
Furniture and fixtures	3.9	3.0	3.1
Machinery	5.8	5.4	4.6
Parts and materials	10.3	8.0	8.7
Worker motion or position	10.2	9.2	9.5
Floors, ground surfaces	15.9	16.3	17.6
Tools, instruments and equipment	4.8	4.1	5.7
Vehicles	9.8	10.5	7.9
Health care patient	2.8	2.8	3.2
Characteristic	2008	2009	2010
Event or exposure			
Contact with object, equipment	25.5	23.7	21.7
Struck by object	13.4	11.5	11.1
Struck against object	5.6	5.2	5.4
Caught in object or equipment, material	5.4	4.6	4.1
Fall to lower level	6.7	6.2	5.6
Fall on same level	10.7	12.1	13.3
Slips, trips	2.4	2.1	2.0
Overexertion	18.9	16.7	18.9
Overexertion in lifting	9.0	8.3	9.4
Repetitive motion	0.9	1.3	0.9
Exposure to harmful substances	3.9	5.1	3.9
Transportation accidents	5.7	5.8	4.0
Fires and explosions	0.1	0.0	0.2
Assaults and violent acts	1.6	1.1	1.0

Sprains and strains remain the leading nature of occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work for 2010. The body part most affected continues to be the trunk area, which includes the shoulder and back. The rate for back-related cases continues to decrease. Floors, ground surfaces continue to be the number one source of injury and shows slight increases over the last two years. Containers (10.3) and worker motion or position (9.5) reported the next highest incidence rates. The rate for cases involving vehicles decreased 25 percent from 10.5 in 2009 to 7.9 in 2010. The event or exposure characteristic for 2010 shows that fall on same level had the highest incidence rate at 13.3 followed by struck by object at 11.1.

Additional Texas fatal and nonfatal occupational injury and illness data are available by contacting the TDI-DWC at 512-804-4651 or InjuryAnalysis@tdi.state.tx.us or by visiting the TDI website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/sis/index.html>. Details about the national BLS injury and illness data can be found on the BLS website at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/osh2.nr0.htm>.

Sources for this report include: the TDI-DWC, in cooperation with the BLS, U.S. Department of Labor.

Details regarding the data reported in this report.

- Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 10,000 full-time employees and were calculated as: $(N / EH) \times 20,000,000$ where, N=number of injuries and illnesses, EH=total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, 20,000,000=base for 10,000 full-time equivalent employees (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).
- Days away from work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.
- Data excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.
- Data for mining (Sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System—United States, 2002) includes establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by the MSHA, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect the changes OSHA made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates in other industries.
- Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Dashes indicate data that do not meet publication guidelines or data for incidence rates less than 0.05 per 10,000 full-time employees. The scientifically selected probability sample used in each year was one of many possible samples, each of which could have produced different estimates. A measure of sampling variability for each estimate is available upon request. Because of rounding and data exclusion of non-classifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.